

Assessing Delaware's Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise: *Steps, Workgroups and Timelines*



Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise

“Potential for loss or harm to exposed assets due to complex interactions among natural processes, land use decisions and community resilience”

NOAA (2010). Adapting to climate change: a planning guide for coastal managers

Vulnerability = Exposure and Adaptive Capacity



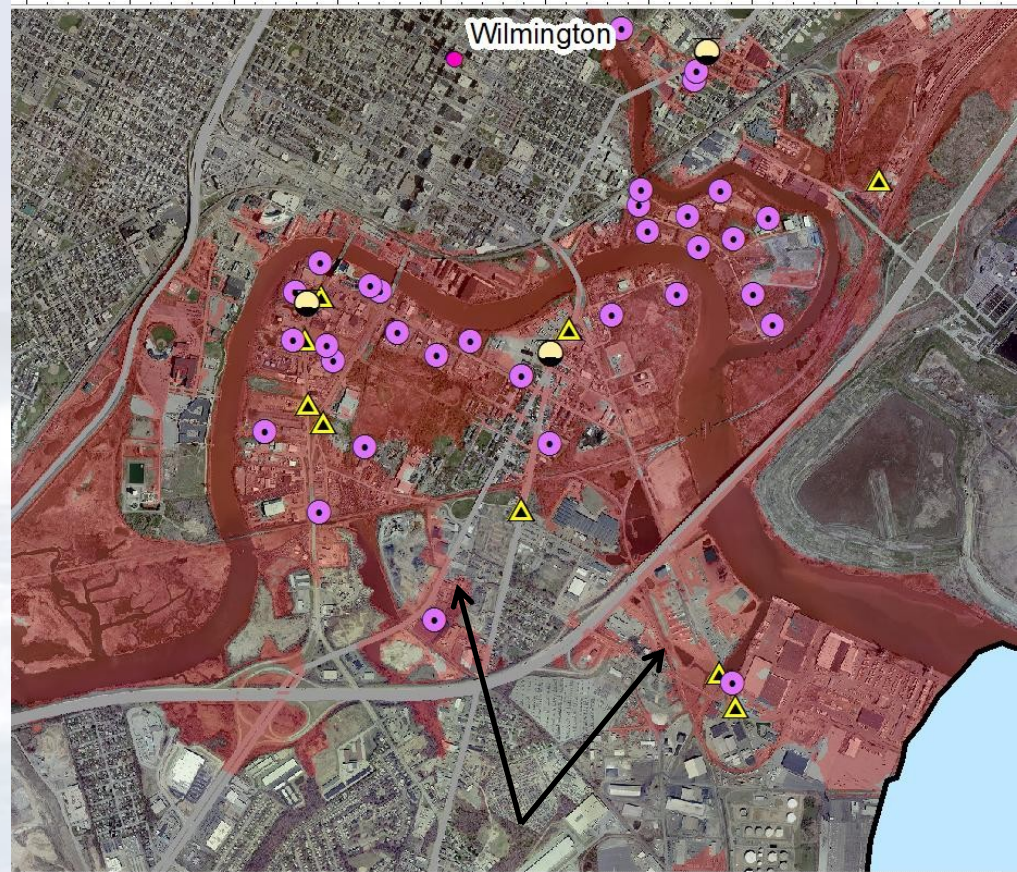
Screening Level Assessment

- SLRAC will be conducting a statewide screening assessment to use as baseline for developing adaptation strategies
- Information developed will be at a statewide scale
- Statewide assessment will indicate areas that require more study or assessment
 - ✓ Will be done in later phases or during implementation



Step 1 – Determine Exposure

- Asks the question – “Is X within an inundated area”
- Requires:
 - ✓ Inundation maps
 - ✓ Location of assets/resources/infrastructure of concern
 - ✓ QA/QC by subject matter experts
- Provides basic info regarding how much, what kind and where



Potential Exposure of Hazardous Sites at 1.5 meters of Sea Level Rise

Step 2 – Determine Adaptive Capacity

- Subjective exercise
- Asks, if X is inundated, what are the potential:
 - ✓ Economic Impacts
 - ✓ Social Impacts
 - ✓ Environmental Impact
- Asks what programs, funding and people are involved in managing X
- Asks what regulations and policies exist for managing X

Put it all together...

- Describes and maps resources that are exposed to SLR
- Describes ability to manage, preserve or protect exposed resources
- Provides information necessary to begin identifying strategies

Workgroups

- Established at 1/20/11 meeting
 - ✓ Advisory Committee members, members of the public and colleagues invited by members have signed up to participate
- Will allow detailed discussion in smaller groups with similar expertise and interests
- Workgroups
 - ✓ Society & Economy*
 - ✓ Natural Resources
 - ✓ Public Safety and Infrastructure
- DCP staff will facilitate and coordinate each group



Workgroup Charge

■ Today

- ✓ Answer the question “what resources/assets/infrastructure is my organization concerned could be at risk from sea level rise?”
 - ***Outcome – list of items of concern***
- ✓ Prioritize items on list
 - ***For purposes of today’s discussion and prioritizing data collection only***
- ✓ Develop list of data and subject matter experts who could be consulted for priority items
 - ***Outcome – list of datasets and people to consult to begin exposure assessment***

- Each group will have 2 facilitators and a note taker
- 2 Brainstorming sessions, with break for lunch
 - ✓ 10:45 – 11:45 – Develop list of assets/infrastructure/resources
 - ✓ 11:45 – 12:15 – Lunch and prioritize items
 - ✓ 12:15 – 1:15 – Develop list of data and experts
 - ✓ 1:15 – 1:30 – Summarize and Next steps
- Committee ground rules are in effect during workgroup sessions



Workgroup Charge Con't

- Feb 16 – March 15
 - ✓ Assist DCP with data collection and interpretation
 - ✓ Discuss with colleagues
 - ✓ May choose to meet again
- March 15 Meeting
 - ✓ Review information gathered by DCP
 - ✓ Assign members to work on Step 2 for individual items
 - ✓ Continue data gathering/exposure assessment process



Proposed Timeline

■ Feb – April

- ✓ Assess exposure for resources of concern where existing information is available
 - ***DCP with assistance from Workgroup members***
- ✓ Begin assessment of adaptive capacity
 - ***Workgroup members with assistance from DCP***

■ April – May

- ✓ Exposure and adaptive capacity assessments completed

■ May – June

- ✓ Workgroups approve their respective assessments
- ✓ Advisory Committee reviews and approves



- Economy and Society
 - ✓ Barn Room A
- Public Safety and Infrastructure
 - ✓ Barn Room B
- Natural Resources
 - ✓ DNERR Classroom

Workgroup Assignments listed in your packet

